1: Gillin E-5 (1932-33)1936 SR9 Carib SR9

285 531 415 are kept in them. They are all of the square variety with rims and rail edging, as figured in Roth.[1] Twilled weaving is used, and aside from designs in one color, designs are also produced by using elements which expose the outer or brown surface alternately with those which expose the inner or light surface. The rim of the tray usually extends below the bottom of the container, serving thus as a rest which elevates the contents above the ground. In some cases wooden legs are attached at each of the four corners.

The cassava squeezer is manufactured in the manner described by Roth.[2] Two types of design are used on the tube, illustrated in Plate 9, *a*. The two examples at the right bear the kushi-ant design and suggest lines of these insects as they are sometimes observed on the trunks of trees. The specimen at the left in the illustration is the akuri-tooth design, the repetition of the two short parallel motifs suggesting the two upper incisor teeth of that animal. The dark elements of these designs are produced by weaving elements, the outer, or unscraped, sides of which are exposed.

The walisha or carrying basket is of two types, permanent and temporary. The permanent type resembles that figured by Roth,[3] composed of doubled hexagonal wickerwork on a rectangular wooden frame. The temporary type is constructed of bush-rope 415 on an oval hoop of wood, and can be made in haste by a traveller 285 in the bush. Both types are supplied with shoulder straps of 482 bush-rope and a forehead strap of the same material. Loads of eighty pounds can be carried in these pack baskets. The load is placed in the basket and covered with broad banana or plantain leaves to protect it from rain. Then the two sides of the basket are laced together with bush-rope, as closely as possible, along the sides and top, to prevent the load from becoming dislodged. When the load is set down on the trail the projecting inferior ends of the two upright sticks of the frame keep the bottom off the ground, and the entire pack is leaned against a stick stuck into the ground.

Wallets are used for carrying small personal belongings, such as tobacco or beads. I did not see the process of manufacture of any of these articles.

415 285 Pegalls are square baskets made in two halves, one of which telescopes into the other. They are made in the manner described

[1] Roth, 1924, *An Introductory Study of the Arts, Crafts, and Customs*, Plate 97, B.
[2] Roth, 1924, *An Introductory Study of the Arts, Crafts, and Customs*, pp. 282–286.
[3] Roth, 1924, *An Introductory Study of the Arts, Crafts, and Customs*, Plate 118, F.

1: Gillin ? 5 (1932-33) 1936 SR9 Carib SR9

by Roth,[1] although the design in the weaving is confined to square and rectangular figures produced by twilled technique. They are used for storing clothing and personal effects, and are usually kept closed by a cord which is tied securely around both halves.

A variety of quakes, or general utility baskets (kuru kuru), are in use. They are practically all open wickerwork of the hexagonal pattern, without decoration (Plate 22, *a*). They all have hexagon bases, and the details of their construction may be obtained in Roth.[2] Occasionally these baskets are provided with handles. They are for the most part used for storing cassava and other vegetable products.

No other basketry or plaited articles than those described above were observed on the Barama. Fish traps and basketry water bottles, found in other parts of the colony, are not in use here.

Feather-working. This is not one of the arts of the Barama Caribs. Feathers are used on arrows, they are stuck in the hair occasionally as decoration, tufts of feathers may be used in making decorative pendants, and tufts of white powis down are sometimes stuck with honey to the forehead as decoration, but elaborate headdresses, armlets, and so forth, made of feathers, are not to be found in this region.

TRANSPORTATION

THE Caribs have no beasts of burden or wheeled vehicles, so that all transportation depends in the last analysis upon the strength and endurance of the human body.

Land Transport. On land all goods to be transported must be carried on human backs. Radiating from each settlement are a number of trails leading off into the bush, which are followed by men when hunting. Below the falls at Towakaima, the connection between different settlements is usually made by river. The village may be located from one to fifteen miles back from the river by trail, but to reach a neighboring settlement, it is necessary to take the path to the riverside and proceed by canoe to the landing place of the settlement which is to be visited. The three Kariako settlements and Parapimai are connected by trail, as are

[1] Roth, 1924, *An Introductory Study of the Arts, Crafts, and Customs*, p. 345.
[2] Roth, 1924, *An Introductory Study of the Arts, Crafts, and Customs*, p. 322, ff.

1: Gillin E-5 (1932-33)1936 SR9 Carib SR9

481 tion of the line of march, and it is not infrequent for a trail to be carried for several hundred yards from one fallen log to another (Plate 26, *a*). Shallow streams are usually waded, but deeper streams and the river are more often crossed on logs which have fallen across the water.

482 Loads are generally carried in the walishas, or carrying baskets, which have been described in our chapter on basketry. The hammock and a few cakes of cassava bread are tucked into a corner of the walisha, and armed with his cutlass and bow or gun a man is ready for a journey of almost any length with a good load on his back. A party must of course always travel single file, and the eyes must be kept on the ground, in order to watch the footing and to beware of snakes and dangerous insects. If a snake is met on the trail, and this is a frequent occurrence since the reptiles apparently enjoy sunning themselves in the spots of sunlight, which are more often found on the trail, one cuts a long stick, and with it throws the snake into the bush without killing it. It is considered dangerous to slash the snake's head off with the cutlass, because, it is said, the severed head frequently flies off and fastens its jaws into an arm or a leg with unhappy results.

484 [825] [562] A man going on a long journey usually prefers to take his wife and children with him. In such a case each one of the travelers, except children in arms, carries a load. I, however, saw no cases of the celebrated Indian custom which decrees that the wife shall carry all the load while the husband stalks majestically, unhampered, in the van.

[825] The Indians are admirable trackers, both of animals and humans. On many occasions I have verified the uncanny ability of the natives to ascertain from footprints, which to me were hardly visible, the species of animal which had passed by, and often the individual human beings. The Indians make a close study of people's feet, and can often tell by examining the foot prints who has passed over a trail.

501 824 **Water Transport.** Two types of craft are used in water transport, the korial and the woodskin. The korial (Carib, koriara) is a dugout canoe, the hull of which is made from a single log of wood. Konta wood (known to creoles also as counter and silverbelly) and sorodani are considered the best materials for making a korial, as they do not sink and are not so soft that they are easily

1: Gillin E-5 (1932-33)1936 SR9 Carib SR9

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a, Carrying baskets.

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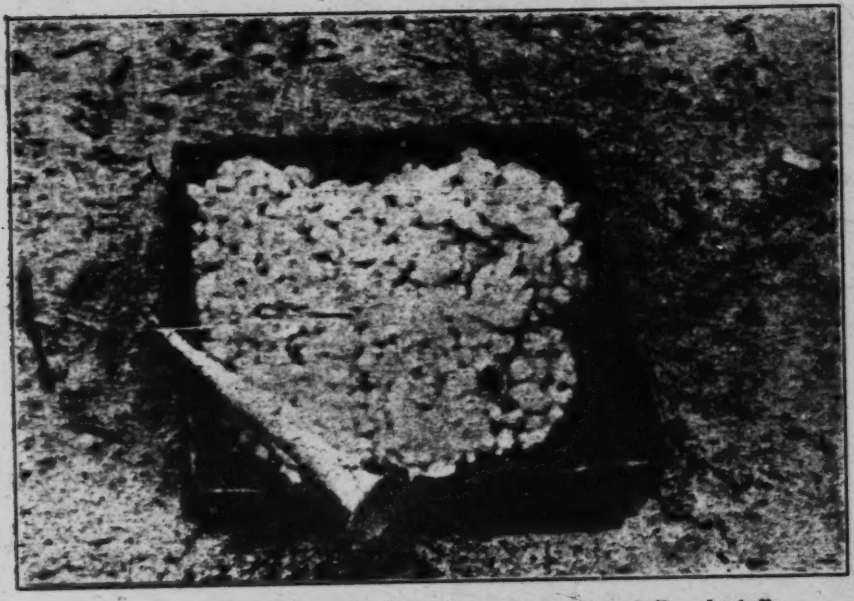

b, Spinning outfit consisting of basketry tray containing cotton bolls and spindle.

[End plate 22]

and as others moved to the Air Strip, the prominent Councillor was a pronounced source of agricultural assistance. At one time or another, he helped all households that moved to the Air Strip. To those who requested it, he would give a wolisha (a large basket for carrying loads on the back) of manioc tubers or processed cassava cakes. Clearly, the Councillor was not providing a major portion of subsistence for anyone outside his household. Yet, he was a source of temporary relief during a time when farms were not yet productive and other sources of subsistence foods were scarce. Also, the Councillor made available manioc stalks necessary for planting new fields. Partly as a consequence of these activities, the prominent Councillor was elected as Captain during the second local election held at the Air Strip in October 1971.

As he is a long time resident of the Air Strip and had expanded his already established agricultural fields, the Councillor was able to make allegiances among the population in this manner. During the spring of 1971, he had 16.2 acres under cultivation compared to the incumbent Captain's farms, which amounted to 11.3 acres. This contrasts to 5.8 acres which was the average size of the cultivated fields of the remaining eighteen clearings at the Air Strip. However, this does not represent any sustained differential relationship to local resources. Agricultural fields are not exchanged. Rather, land holding is determined by the labor invested to develop it and remains a resource until it is reclaimed by the forest.[6]

Over time, the size and stability of Carib settlements have changed. Increasingly, the population has centralized around sources of external resources.